



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**JANUARY 21, 2004**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**UPDATE: OPERATION XPOSED**  
**SPRINGFIELD MAN SENTENCED IN**  
**ECSTASY CONSPIRACY**

**SPRINGFIELD, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Springfield, Mo., man was sentenced in federal court today for his role in a conspiracy to distribute ecstasy in a case that resulted from Operation X-Posed, an investigation into ecstasy, cocaine and methamphetamine trafficking in Greene County.

Operation X-Posed was a long-term, multi-agency investigation into the distribution of tens of thousands of ecstasy tablets throughout southwest Missouri, as well as the Kansas City and St. Louis areas. According to Graves, this was the largest ecstasy ring ever prosecuted in southwest Missouri.

A series of five indictments returned by a federal grand jury meeting in Springfield on April 3, 2003, also charge some defendants with distributing cocaine and methamphetamine, as well as money laundering and firearms violations. The indictments seek the forfeiture of several vehicles and nearly \$400,000 in cash, all of which was allegedly derived from illegal drug sales or used in the conspiracy to distribute illegal drugs.

**Sean C. Fannin**, 35, of Springfield, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Richard E. Dorr this morning to 23 months in federal prison without parole.

On Sept. 18, 2003, **Fannin** pleaded guilty to participating in a conspiracy to distribute ecstasy in Greene County from April 2001 to March 2002. **Fannin** admitted that he received supplies of ecstasy from co-defendant **Anthony J. Ford**, 33, of Springfield, which he re-distributed to others in the Springfield area. **Fannin** also admitted that between 4,700 but less than 5,100 ecstasy tablets were distributed during the course of the conspiracy. According to the plea agreement, the amount of ecstasy that the government can readily prove was distributed by **Fannin** was 1,000 tablets.

**Fannin** is the seventh and final co-defendant to be sentenced in this case, Graves said. All of the defendants have pleaded guilty to their role in the conspiracy.

\* **Nathan Tomlinson**, 24, address unknown, was sentenced on Dec. 16, 2003, to two years and three months in federal prison without parole. On Aug. 28, 2003, **Tomlinson** pleaded guilty to receiving supplies of ecstasy from two co-defendants, which he re-distributed to others in the Springfield area. During the course of the conspiracy, Graves said, **Tomlinson** distributed approximately 150 ecstasy tablets, as well as distributing or being in possession of cocaine and methamphetamine.

\* **Andrew G. Matthews**, 43, of Brooklyn, N.Y., was sentenced on Dec. 15, 2003, to four years and three months in federal prison without parole. On Sept. 15, 2003, **Matthews** pleaded guilty to distributing between 4,700 and 5,100 ecstasy tablets to two co-defendants, which they redistributed in the Springfield area.

\* **Anthony J. Ford**, 33, of Springfield, was sentenced on June 4, 2003, to four years and nine months in federal prison without parole. The court also ordered **Ford** to forfeit to the United States a 1996 Nissan Pathfinder, which was purchased with proceeds from the sale of ecstasy, and \$1,627 seized from him by law enforcement authorities.

\* **Kyle Woods**, 23, of Springfield, was sentenced on Jan. 20, 2004, to five years of probation with six months of home detention and 100 hours of community service. On Sept. 19, 2003, **Woods** pleaded guilty to participating in a conspiracy to distribute ecstasy in Greene County from at least as early as July 2001 to March 2002. **Woods** admitted that he received supplies of ecstasy from co-defendant **Fannin**, which he re-distributed to others in the Springfield area. **Woods** also admitted that he distributed 270 ecstasy tablets to undercover officers.

\* **Meg Thibodeaux**, 30, of Brooklyn, N.Y., was sentenced on Dec. 23, 2003, to 23 months in federal prison without parole. On May 30, 2003, she pleaded guilty to participating in the conspiracy to distribute ecstasy.

\* **Brandon Smith**, 23, address unknown, was sentenced on Dec. 22, 2003, to 23 months in federal prison without parole. He pleaded guilty on Sept. 17, 2003, admitting that he received supplies of ecstasy from **Ford**, which he re-distributed to others in the Springfield area.

These cases are being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Robyn L. McKee. They were investigated by the Springfield, Mo., Police Department, COMET (the Combined Ozarks Multi-jurisdictional Enforcement Team), the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Internal Revenue Service, and the United States Postal Inspection Service.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

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